

RESOLUTION NUMBER 318
HOME MORTGAGE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the onrushing financial crisis involving home mortgages, debt instruments of all types, and the banking system of the United States threatens to set off an economic collapse worse than the Great Depression of the 1930s; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans are faced with foreclosure and loss of their homes over the coming months; and

WHEREAS, the hedge funds which spread this financial collapse among markets worldwide by dominating speculation in all those markets are now going bankrupt and demanding government bailout of their securities and derivatives, and the nominal value of the derivatives based on mortgages alone is the size of the combined GDP of the nations of the world; and

WHEREAS, this financial crisis threatens the integrity of both federal and state chartered banks, as typified by the run on deposits of Countrywide Financial Corporation in California on August 16, 2007, which could wipe out the life savings of too many American people and drastically undermine the economic stability of our states and cities; and

WHEREAS, under similar circumstances in the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt successfully intervened to protect banks and homeowners, addressing Congress with a "declaration of national policy" on April 13, 1933, which stated "that the broad interests of the Nation require that special safeguards should be thrown around home ownership as a guarantee of social and economic stability, and that to protect homeowners from inequitable enforced liquidation in a time of general distress is a proper concern of the Government."

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen hereby call upon the United States Congress to take emergency action to protect homeowners and banks by enacting a Homeowners and Banks Protection Act specifically to:

1. Establish a federal agency to place federal and state chartered banks under protection, freezing all existing home mortgages for a period of time, adjusting mortgage values to fair prices, restructuring existing mortgages at appropriate interest rates, and writing off speculative debt obligations of mortgage-backed securities, financial derivatives, and other forms of financial pyramid schemes that have brought the banking system to the point of bankruptcy; and
2. Declare a moratorium on all home foreclosures for the duration of the transitional period, allowing families to retain their homes. Monthly payments, the equivalent of "rental payments", shall be made to designated banks, which can use the funds as collateral for normal lending practices, thus recapitalizing the banking system. These affordable monthly payments will be factored into new mortgages, reflecting the orderly deflating of the housing bubble, the establishment of appropriate property valuations, and reduced fixed mortgage interest rates. While this may take several years to achieve, in the interim period no homeowner shall be evicted from his or her property, and the federal and state chartered banks shall be protected so that they can resume their traditional functions, serving local communities and facilitating credit for investment in productive entities; and

3. Authorize governors of several states to assume the administrative responsibilities for implementing the program, including the "rental" assessments to designated banks, with the federal government providing the necessary credits and guarantees to assure the successful transition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copies of this Resolution for the President of the United States and each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

Introduced on the 18th day of January, 2008 by:

Honorable Charles Quincy Troupe, Alderman 1st Ward

Adopted this the 18th day of January, 2008 as attested by:

Denise Watson-Wesley Coleman
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen